

Sanity

Wisdom: The Hatred of Pride and the Pursuit of Humility

Proverbs 8:12, 22:4

Memory Verse: Proverbs 22:4

The result of humility is fear of the Lord, along with wealth, honor and life.

Review: (Read verses with each sermon point)

The fear of the Lord means hating what is evil- Proverbs 8:13

- We are to hate an arrogant attitude (v.13)
- We are to hate wicked living (v.13)
- We are to hate ungodly words (v.13)

The fear of the Lord means pursuing humility-Proverbs 22:4. What do we receive from the Lord when we pursue humility and fear the Lord? (22:4)

- Spiritual wealth (v.4)
- Divine Honor (v. 4)
- Abundant Life (v. 4)

Remember: Humility is a constant pursuit for believers until glory (Isaiah 66:2).

Ask:

What particular points spoke to you? (Let class discuss for a couple minutes, share something yourself.)

Relating the Truths to Our Hearts:

As we have learned from Kenneth, Proverbs is not primarily a book of promises. Rather, Proverbs is a book of principles for living.

Ask:

How is Jesus our example in this area of humility? Provide specific examples of Jesus' humility.

- Let the class discuss. Jesus chose material poverty, 2 Corinthians 8:9. Jesus shared meals and conversations with known sinners. He owned no symbols of prosperity or wealth. He never pursued societal status. Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death. Jesus did not consider His equality with God, He emptied himself and took the form of a servant. Philippians 2:9.

Can we be truly humble in some areas of our lives and not in others? How can we tell where the lack of humility (therefore pride) exists?

What does it mean to be spiritually wealthy? Use the cross-references to guide this conversation.

- When we humble ourselves in obedience to the Lord like Jesus did, we experience Him in ways that are unimaginable. See Psalm 84:11: "...the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does He withhold..." See 2 Peter 1:3 "...His divine power has granted us all things that pertain to life and godliness..." Also see Matt 13:44-46; Eph 1:3-14, 3:8-9; Col 2:3
- Can you provide practical examples of experiencing spiritual wealth in your life?

How can we identify where the Spirit is giving us wealth verses gaining the wealth ourselves?

What does it mean to have divine honor?

- We don't have to bring honor to ourselves. God sees everything, He knows our every thought and attitude.
- God has promised: "...those who honor me I will honor..." 1 Samuel 2:30
- Can you think of others who God honored because they honored Him? i.e. Daniel- see Daniel 10:12, King Hezekiah- 2 Chronicles 32:26.
- Remember, God has always rewarded the faithfulness of His people in His time and in His way.

How can we identify signs of seeking honor from man in our own hearts?

What does it mean to have abundant life?

- Abundant life can be highly misunderstood from a worldly perspective. Obviously, the world measures abundance in terms of possessions and wealth.
- What is a spiritually abundant life? Use the cross-references to generate a conversation about spiritual abundance. i.e. Jeremiah 33:3 "...I will answer you and tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.", Matthew 6:33 "...seek first the kingdom of God...and all these things will be added to you."
- We have Jesus, He is our abundance. John 10:10 "...I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."
- To know Jesus is to know truth-John 8:32.

Do you know more Christians that are experiencing an "abundant life," "joy unspeakable," "peace that surpasses all understanding," "lacking nothing," etc. or more living defeated lives full of anxiety, depression, insufficiency, fear, etc.? Why would that be so?

In our current situation with COVID, the economy, and all the related unrest/uncertainty, think about it simply and answer honestly/humbly, how does walking humbly with our God change our perspective in how we can live during this time?

- Give your answer and let the class discuss theirs.
- It takes humility to accept God's direction and reproof. When we are humble, when we trust Him, and when we walk in the fear of the Lord, He has promised us a spiritually abundant life.

When I see areas in my life where I am not walking in the humility of the Lord, what should I do?

- I must acknowledge my sin before the Lord.
- Confess the sin of arrogance and lack of humility

Impact Point: Flee sin. Get low before the Lord – and stay there.

Scripture Memory for next week:

Proverbs 12:19 *Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue, only a moment.*